

First Sunday of Advent



November 29, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

November 29, 2020

Advent Intergenerational Zoom Events: Each Sunday of Advent we will gather on Zoom for a time of learning, singing, and sharing. All ages. Week 1, **TODAY at 4:00 PM.** Bring a star to share. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82809432951>

LSMNJ Christmas Giving Tree: Please help provide Christmas gifts for families and seniors in need by either purchasing gift cards for at least \$35 from a grocery store, Walmart, or Target, returning them to St. John's by **December 2**; or purchasing gifts from LSMNJ's Amazon Smiles Christmas Gift List. To access the children's wish list: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/BO29XPGZ2EIP>, select LSMNJ as your charity, select gifts, ensure delivery by **December 7** and **CONFIRM SHIPPING ADDRESS** as LSMNJ, 3 Manhattan Dr., Burlington, NJ 08016, (609) 386-7171, **NO WEEKEND DELIVERIES.**

Online Pledge Form: Our primary mode of collecting 2021 Financial Stewardship Pledges will be online. Please fill out the Online Pledge Form <https://forms.gle/9X3dVQkh6J8MCU5v9>. You may also submit the paper pledge card in person to the church office.

Pledge Update: Thus far we have received 58 pledges for a total of \$310,340 towards our goal of \$450,000. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please do so today.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Evening Prayer: Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16 at 7:00 PM

Blue Christmas: December 23 at 7:00 PM Grieving, hurting, feeling blue? Join us for a special service of hope.

Christmas Eve Virtual Services: 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM on YouTube and Facebook

Christmas Eve In-Person Outdoor Service at 8:00 PM. Come to Bethlehem and see! Join us around the manger (in the Memorial Garden) as we hear the Christmas story and share communion.

Christmas Day Virtual Service: 10:30 AM on YouTube and Facebook.



Prayer Before Worship

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,
Year B, Vol. 1*

PRELUDE Setting of *Veni Emmanuel*

By Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and is to come. **Amen.**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill my promise to my people. Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

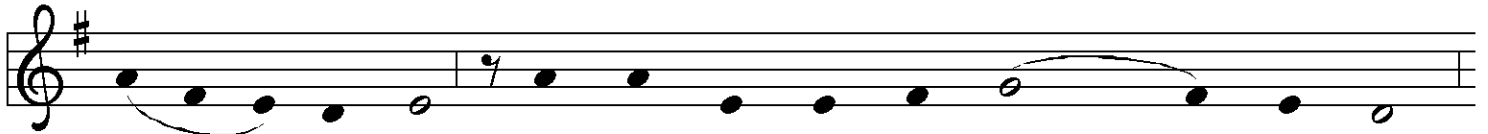
May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verses 1-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, "In days to come the nations shall beat their sword into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

HYMN We Light the Advent Candles

Verses 1 & 2



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,
2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn,



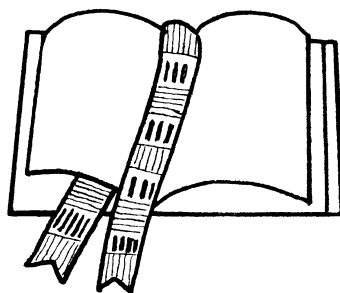
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.

Text: Gracia Grindal (1943-)
Tune: German folk tune

76 76 76
WIR HATTEN GEBAUET
<http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/175>



First Sunday
OF ADVENT



FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1–9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

Music: "Alleluia 7." Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GOSPEL Mark 13:24–37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 252 Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
 scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
 we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
 kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
 new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
 Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925
 Text and music © 1971 United Church Press.

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING MUSIC Setting of *Carol of Hope*

By Donna Garzinsky (b. 20th C.)

Virtual Chime Choir and Recorder Ensemble

OFFERTORY ELW 552 Blessed Be the God of Israel

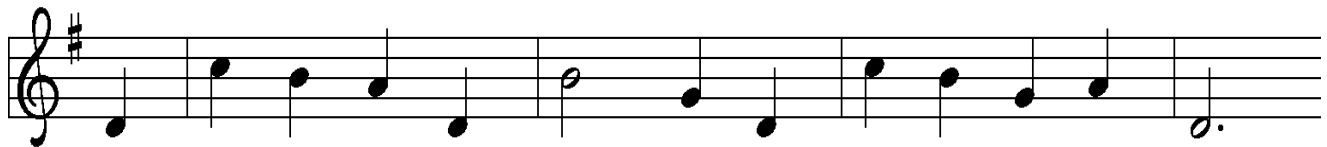
Verse 1



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.



The proph-ets spoke of mer - cy, of free-dom and re - lease;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

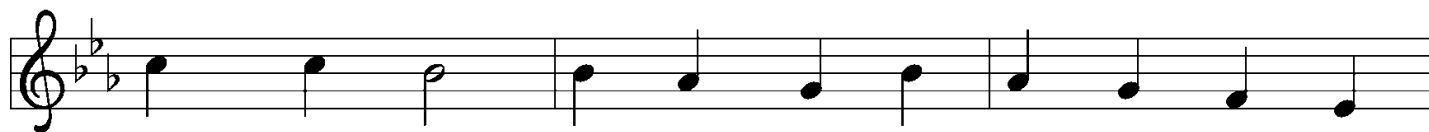
BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

By John Behnke (b. 1953)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

Zoom Children's Time is on hiatus through until January.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88523165763>

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

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The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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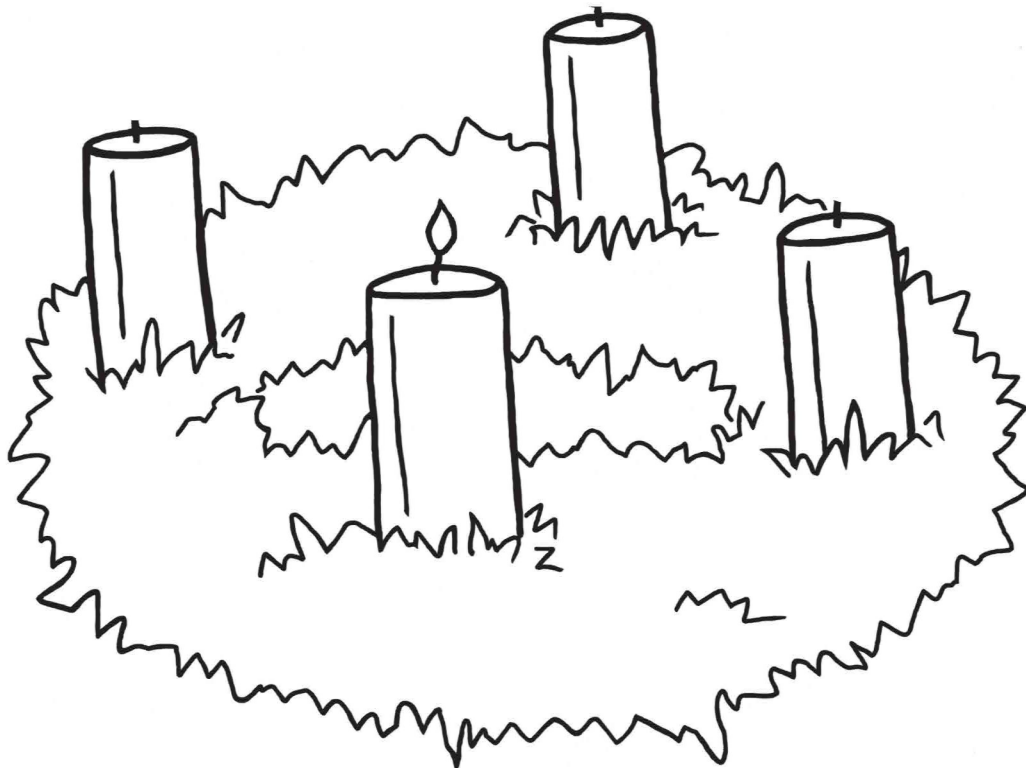


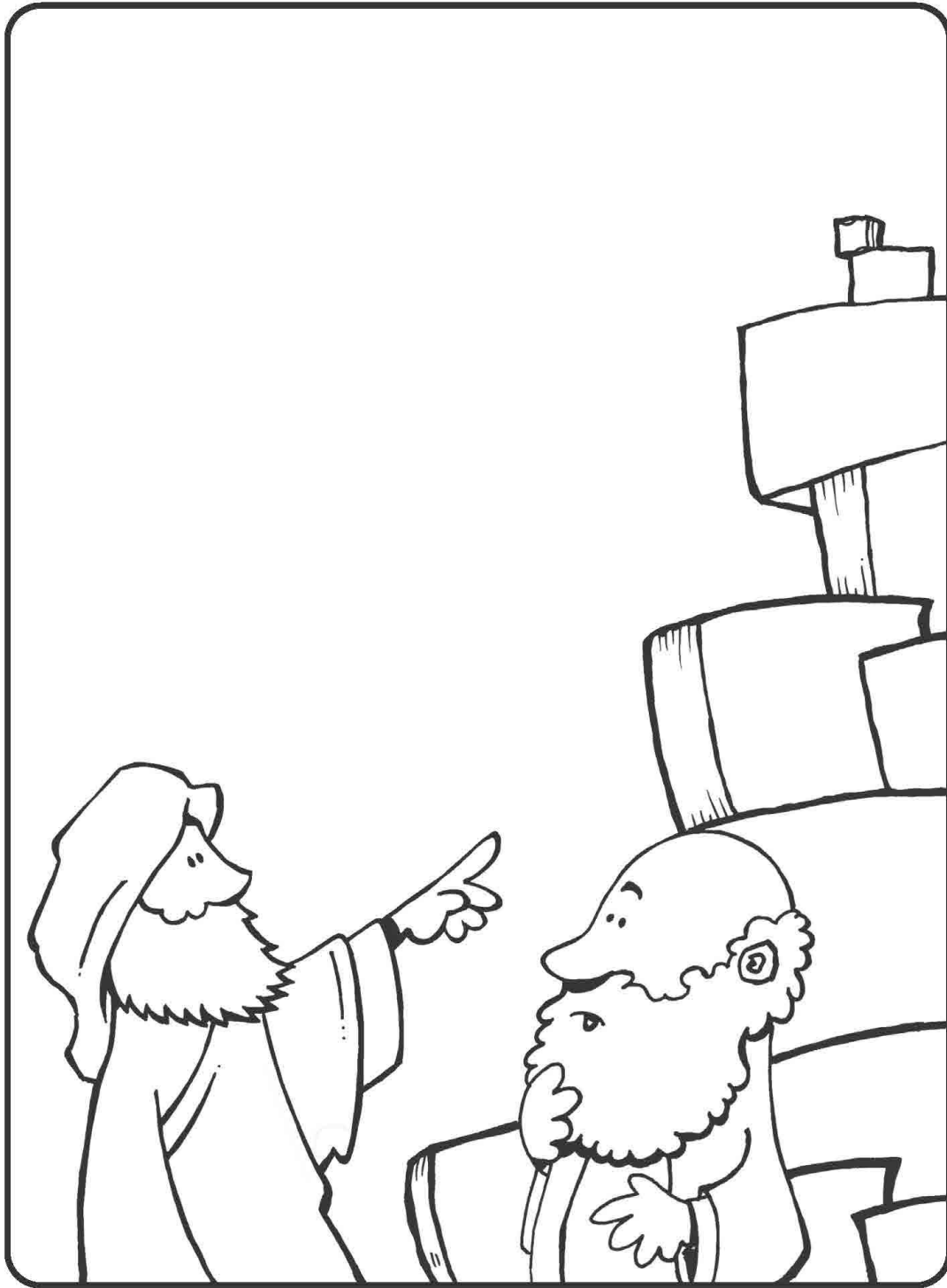
PRE-READER

Advent 1

- Today is the **1st Sunday** in **Advent**.
- During Advent, we **prepare** for Jesus to come.
- One **symbol** for Advent is an **Advent wreath**.

Color the Advent wreath. Light one candle.
Do you see other wreaths in your worship space? Draw them here.



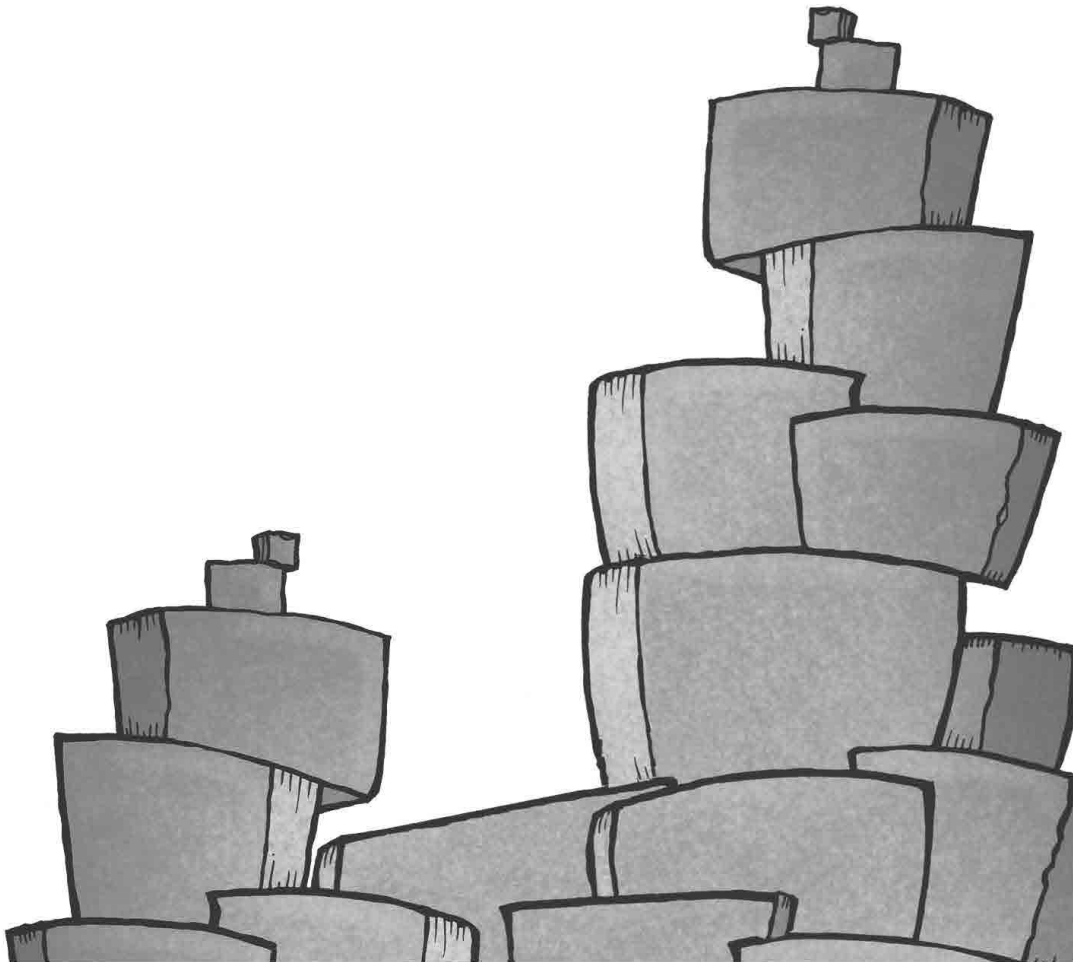
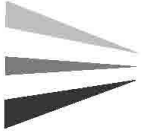


“Don’t be afraid. Even when scary things happen, God is working for good.”

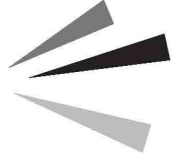


Oh no! All the stones have fallen! Buildings may fall down, but God never does. God's love can rebuild every broken piece of our lives.

Create something new on top of the stone pile.



Jesus tells us to be ready. Decorating for the Advent season is one way we can get ready for Jesus.



Which of these decorations are in your worship space?





READER

Advent 1

- Today is the **first Sunday** in Advent.
- There are **four** Sundays in Advent before we celebrate **Christmas**.
- One **symbol** for Advent is a candle called a luminary.
- A luminary is something that gives off **light**.



Advent Code

Why is light a symbol during Advent?
Crack this code to find out!

D=4 E=5 F=6 G=7 H=8 I=9 J=10

L=12 O=15 R=18 S=19 T=20 U=21 W=23

10

5

19

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19

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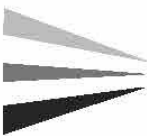
23

15

18

12

4



Unscramble the underlined words to finish this week's memory verses. You can look in your Bible for help!

Memory Verse



Put on the moarr of light.

Put on the _____ of light. Romans 13:12

O esohu of Jacob, come, let us akwl in the ihgtl of the Lord!

Oh _____ of Jacob, come, let us _____

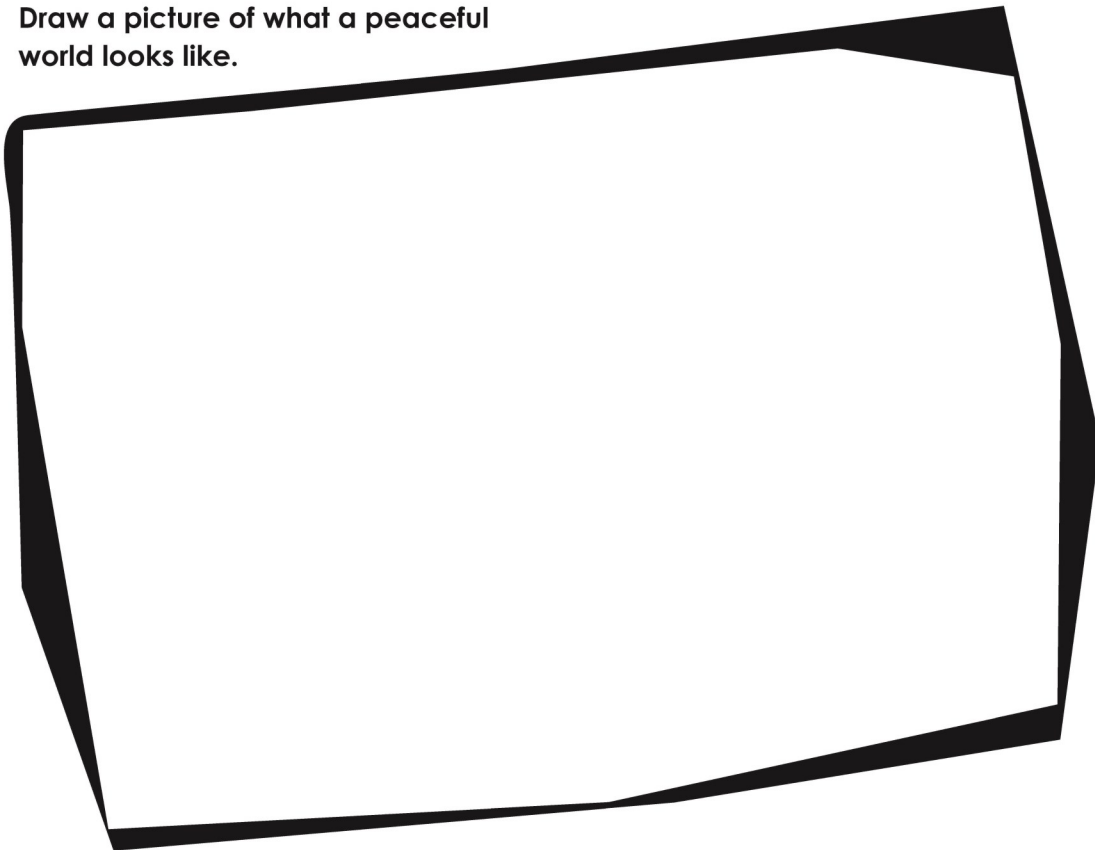
in the _____ of the Lord! Isaiah 2:5



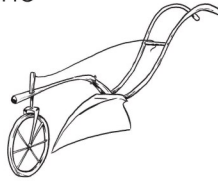
Look It Up!

One of the Bible readings for today is from the book of Isaiah. Look it up in your Bible: Isaiah 2:1-5. This is a story about what the world will look like when God brings peace.

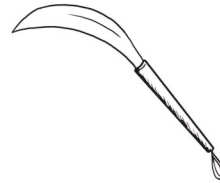
Draw a picture of what a peaceful world looks like.



A **plowshare** is the part of the plow that digs into the ground. It looks like this:



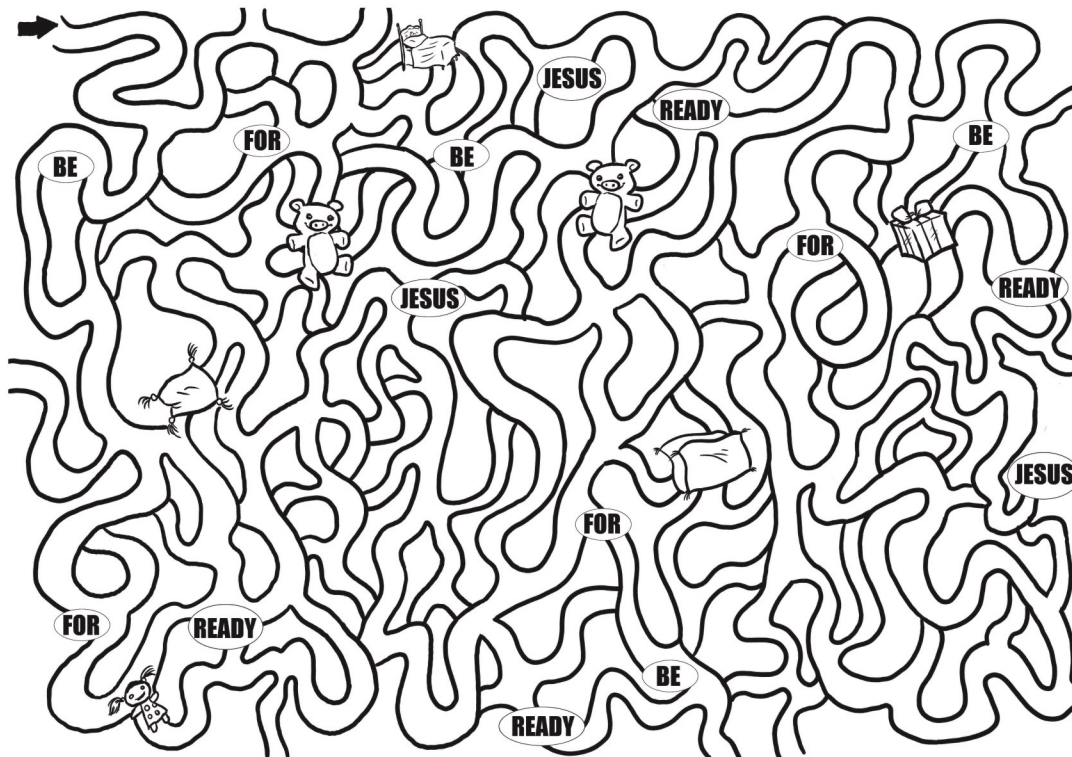
A **pruning hook** is a tool used to cut pieces off of trees and bushes. It looks like this:



Keep Awake!

We learn that Jesus will come at a time when we least expect it. Jesus tells us "Keep awake!" so that we will be ready. During Advent we stay awake and get ready for Jesus.

Follow the maze to get ready for Jesus. Avoid things that would make you sleepy! Pick up words along the way and put them in the blank spaces. They will reveal a secret message.



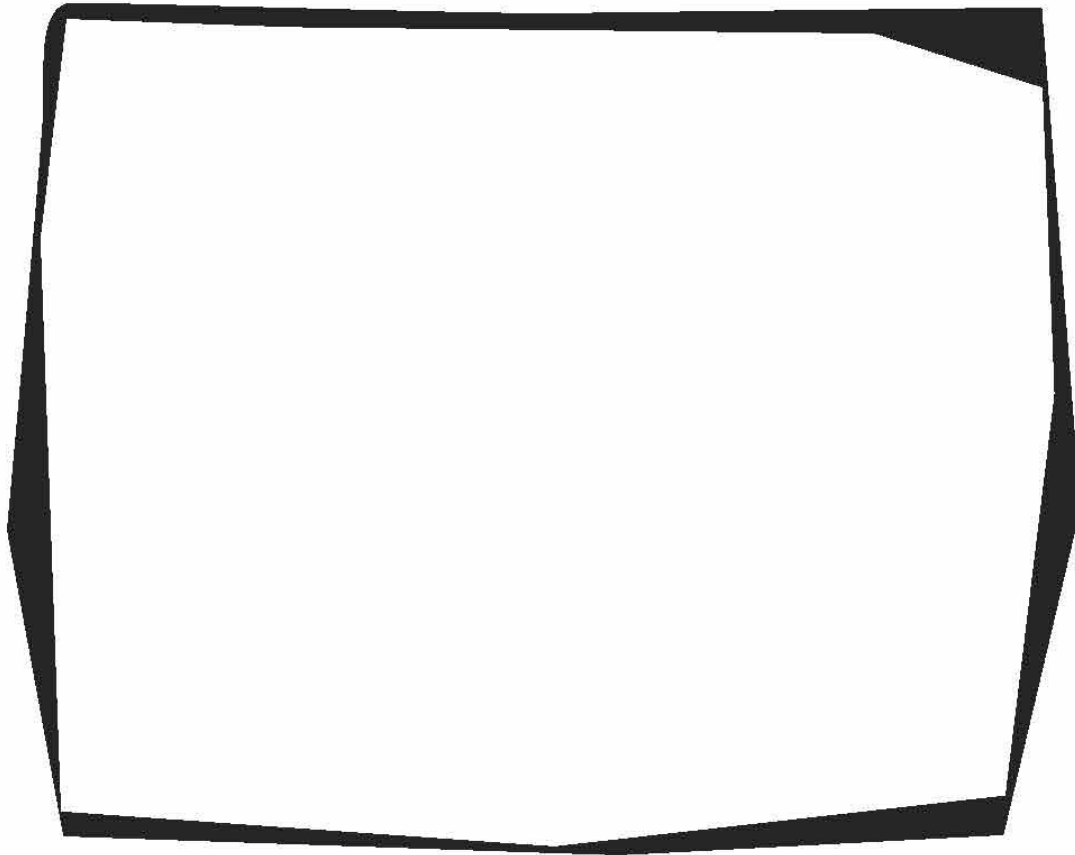
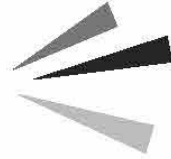
Secret Message:

_____ !

Wreath Meanings

During Advent, we light candles on an Advent wreath. One candle is lit for each Sunday in Advent until the fourth Sunday, when all of them are lit.

Do you have an Advent wreath in your church or at home? Draw what it looks like.



How many candles are lit today?



Look around your worship space. Can you find any other lit candles? Add them up in the space below.